FDI in mining sector

65. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved Rs. 4000 crores FDI in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that because of obsolete technology used by the Indian miners, the country has been deficient in high-value minerals; and

(d) if so, the mineral production during the last ten years; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In consultation with the Ministry of Mines, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), has so far approved 73 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining sector, envisaging an investment of about Rs. 4,044 crores.

(c) India has similar geological setting and metallogenetic history as of mineral rich Australia, South Africa and Antarctica. However, due to lack of advanced state-of-the-art technology and low investment for detailed exploration, deeper seated high value minerals have not yet been fully discovered.

(d) The total value of all mineral production of the country (excluding atomic minerals) during the last ten years is as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Value
1	2
1995-96	33998
1996-97	38269
1997-98	44193
1998-99	45418
1999-2000	52307
2000-01	58765

1	2
2001-02	60832
2002-03	67029
2003-04 (Provisional)	71367
2004-05 (Provisional)	74994

Exploration of copper by MECL

66. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. has carried out exploration for copper at Thanewasna (Maharashtra), Bhagal (Ph. II), Dholamala (Rajasthan) and Dhadkidih (Jharkhand);

(b) if so, the details of the work done so far;

(c) whether the commercial production of copper has commenced; and

(d) if not, by when it is likely to commence with annual capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. [MECL has carried out exploration for copper at Thanewasna (Maharashtra). The work for copper ore exploration at Bhagal (Ph. II) in Rajasthan and Dhadkidih (Jharkhand) are in progress. The work in Dholamala (Rajasthan) for Copper has not started because of non-availability of forest permission.]

(b) The project-wise work done so far by MECL is given below:—

i. Thanewasna Copper (Maharashtra).

The exploration work was done from January 2004 to December 2004. A total of 2002m of drilling in 15 bore holes was carried out covering 1000m strike length and 200m vertical column from surface which was supported with geological and analytical work.

ii. Bhagal Phase-II (Rajasthan).

The work was commenced in December 2004. A total 2200m of drilling in 8 bore holes has been done with geological work, Sampling and analytical work are in progress. Earlier in Phase-I work, MECL estimated 5.53 million